

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed to advance prosecution of the RCE filed concurrently in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

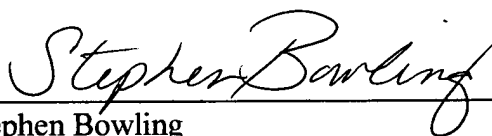
Claims 21-44 remain in this application. Claims 21, 27, 35 and 43 are independent.

Claim 27 have been amended to more clearly recite the invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

The claims distinguish the cited prior art for reasons discussed in the Request for Reconsideration of November 6, 2006. Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicant requests that the application be passed to issue in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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